



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
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Acting Commissioner

January 22, 2007

To: All Interested Parties
From: Brad Mitchell

RE: RESCISON of *Emergency Order 2 –AHO-05 Concerning Controls on Importation of Animals from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama*

On September 22, 2005 the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) put into effect Emergency Order 2-AHO-05 Concerning Controls on Importation of Animals from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. This Order was put into effect in the wake of hurricane Katrina and put significant controls on animals coming from these three states. Following the devastation of the hurricane in this area, many companion animals were left unattended, and without proper care. Rescue operations were overrun and overcrowded with animals. The veterinary infrastructure was overwhelmed. Contagious disease was rampant. The controls implemented by DAR were designed to prevent risk of disease coming into Massachusetts.

During the months following Katrina conditions have improved considerably to the point where DAR believes the disease risk posed by animals that was elevated by events related to hurricane Katrina, have largely abated. **Effective immediately, Emergency Order 2-AHO-05 is rescinded and no longer held in effect.**

Individuals bringing animals into Massachusetts are reminded that other requirements remain in effect. These include mandatory health certificates and those requirements related to Emergency Order 1-AHO-05 which requires among other things, registration of shelter and rescue organizations and mandatory isolation of animals once entering the state. Depending on the species, there may also be required vaccinations prior to entry into the Commonwealth.

For more information on requirements for animals entering the Commonwealth, please call 617. 626.1795

Brad Mitchell
Director, Division of Biosecurity and Regulatory Services